

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A method of using a portable precast slab as a foundation for industrial equipment, comprising:

providing a portable precast slab that has a top surface, a plurality of side surfaces, a lower surface, a length of at least about 6 feet, a width of at least about 6 feet, and a thickness of at least about 4 inches, wherein said slab is comprised of concrete ~~or cement~~;

placing the lower surface of the slab on ground;

performing at least one of: leveling the slab and ~~or~~ checking the level of the slab; and

placing at least one piece of ~~industrial~~ cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab; the cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a bulk storage tank having filling connections adapted for selectively, physically connecting the bulk storage tank to a source of a cryogen and filling the bulk storage tank, after which the source is disconnected from the connections; wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of casting reinforcing means into the concrete ~~or cement~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a means for attachment, wherein said means is accessible from at least one of the top surface [[or]] and side surface of said slab.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said means for attachment is selected from the group consisting essentially of at least one lift pin, at least one lift ring, at least one lift bolt, an anchor bolt, or a combination thereof.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

attaching a cable to said means for attachment; and
moving the slab.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[6]] 1, further comprising the step of anchoring at least one leg of the bulk storage tank to the slab.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of installing fencing around at least one of the perimeter of the slab and/or the industrial cryogenic delivery equipment.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the slab is formed of multiple pieces and wherein placing the lower surface of the slab on ground comprises further comprising the steps of:

using a slab that comprises multiple pieces; and
placing said pieces adjacent to each other to form the slab.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[6]] 1, further comprising the step of providing a slab splash pad having at least about an 8 foot length by about an 8 foot width area on the top surface adjacent to said tank that is available for liquid oxygen delivery after said bulk storage tank is placed on the top surface of said slab.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of using at least a portion of the slab as a splash pad.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the industrial cryogenic delivery equipment further comprises at least one cryogenic liquid pump in fluid communication with the bulk storage tank.

Claim 13 (Canceled)

Claim 14 (Canceled)

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus-portable precast reinforced slab used as a foundation for industrial equipment,~~ comprising:

~~a precast or premolded~~ portable preformed slab comprised of concrete or cement, wherein the slab has a top surface, a bottom surface, a plurality of side surfaces, a length, a width, and a thickness;

wherein said thickness is at least about 6 inches to about 24 inches, wherein said length is at least about 6 feet, and wherein said width is at least about 6 feet;

wherein the concrete or cement is reinforced by reinforcing means; and

~~wherein during use the slab is level or substantially level and is used as a foundation for industrial equipment~~

at least one piece of cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab; the cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a cryogen bulk storage tank having filling connections adapted for selectively, physically connecting the bulk storage tank to a source of a cryogen and filling the bulk storage tank, after which the source is disconnected from the connections; wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The apparatus slab of Claim 15, further comprising means of attachment, wherein said means for attachment is selected from the group

consisting essentially of at least one lift pin, at least one lift ring, at least one lift bolt, at least one anchor bolt, and a combination thereof.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The apparatus slab of Claim 15, having a plurality of apertures cast into said slab that are visible from the top or side surfaces, wherein said apertures can be used to install fence posts therein.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The apparatus slab of Claim 15, having at least one side surface that is shaped and/or sized to interconnect or interface with at least one side surface of another slab.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The slab of Claim 15, wherein a plurality of rebars or rods are used as the reinforcing means and are cast into the concrete or cement, and wherein said rebars or rods are placed one of: (i) parallel to one another and/or (ii) in a criss-cross fashion.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Currently Amended) The apparatus slab of Claim ~~[[20]]~~ 15, wherein at least a portion of the slab defines a splash pad having at least about an 8-foot length by an about 8-foot width area on the top surface adjacent to said tank available for liquid oxygen delivery after the tank is placed upon said slab.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The apparatus slab of Claim 19, wherein said rebars or rods are formed into a support frame and wherein said means for attachment is one of: (i) removably attached to said support frame or and (ii) securably attached to said support frame.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) ~~A method of making a precast slab that is used as a foundation for at least one bulk storage tank, comprising:~~

providing a form;
at least partially filling the form with a concrete or cement mixture;
placing at least one means for attachment into the concrete or cement mixture;
filling the form with additional concrete or cement mixture;
allowing the concrete or cement mixture to at least one of dry and/or cure,
thereby forming a concrete slab, wherein the slab has a top surface, a bottom
surface, a plurality of side surfaces, a length, a width, and a thickness, and wherein
said slab is at least about 6 inches thick to about 24 inches thick; and
removing the slab from the form when the concrete or cement mixture is at
least partially dried;
transporting the slab and cryogenic delivery equipment to a location via a
delivery vehicle;
placing the slab on the ground at the location;
placing the cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab; the
cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a bulk storage tank having filling
connections for filling the bulk storage tank;
connecting the filling connections of the bulk storage tank to a tanker truck
filled with a cryogen;
filling the bulk storage tank with the cryogen from the tanker truck; and
disconnecting the filling connections from the tanker truck.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the
steps of:

casting a plurality of apertures into said slab that are visible from the top
surface;
placing the slab at an industrial site; and
installing fence posts into the apertures.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the
steps of:

constructing ~~[[a]] the~~ slab ~~that comprises~~ of more than one piece; and
providing at least one side surface in said pieces that are shaped so that
said pieces are capable of ~~interconnecting or~~ interfacing to form ~~[[a]] the~~ slab.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the
step of:

casting reinforcing means into the slab.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[26]] 23~~, further comprising
the steps of:

~~using a plurality of rebars or rods as the reinforcing means in the slab; and~~
~~placing said~~ at least one of a plurality of rebars or and a plurality of rods in the
slab as reinforcing means, the reinforcing means being placed in at least one
of (i) parallel to one another and/or (ii) in a criss-cross fashion.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26, wherein said ~~rebars or~~
~~rods~~ reinforcing means are arranged to form a three-dimensional support structure.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~[[26]] 27~~, wherein the rebars
or rods are prestressed prior to molding.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, wherein slab is at least
one of: dried and/or cured prior to use.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the
step of using at least one of concrete or and cement of different densities to form said
slab.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26, further comprising the step of making a plurality of furrows in the top surface of said slab to ensure drainage of water from the top surface of said slab.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended) A method of using a portable precast slab for use as a splash pad for cryogenic liquids, comprising:

providing a portable precast slab comprised of concrete or cement, wherein said slab has a top surface, a plurality of side surfaces, a lower surface, a length, a width, and a thickness, wherein said length is at least about 6 feet, wherein said width is at least about 6 feet, and wherein said thickness is at least about 2 inches;

transporting the slab and cryogenic delivery equipment to a location via a delivery vehicle;

placing the lower surface of the slab on ground at the location;

placing the cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab; the cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a bulk storage tank having filling connections for filling the bulk storage tank;

connecting the filling connections of the bulk storage tank to a tanker truck filled with a cryogen;

filling the bulk storage tank with the cryogen from the tanker truck;

offloading liquid cryogen over or adjacent to said slab; and
using the top surface of the slab to catch at least a portion of the liquid cryogen that splash from the offloading of said cryogen;

disconnecting the filling connections from the tanker truck.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of casting reinforcing means into the concrete or cement.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, further comprising the step of providing a means for attachment, wherein said means is accessible from the top or side surface of said slab.

Claim 36 (previously presented) The method of Claim 35, wherein said means for attachment is selected from the group consisting essentially of at least one lift pin, at least one lift ring, at least one lift bolt, an anchor bolt, and a combination thereof.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 35, further comprising the steps of:

attaching a cable to said means for attachment; and
moving the slab.

Claim 38 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

constructing the slab of using a slab that comprises multiple pieces; and
placing said pieces adjacent to each other to form the slab.

Claim 39 (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing a portable precast foundation for a bulk storage tank~~, comprising:

entering into a leasing agreement for a portable precast slab with a customer,
wherein the slab is leased to the customer for a period of time under the leasing
agreement; wherein the obtaining a portable precast slab that has a top surface, a
plurality of side surfaces, a lower surface, a length, a width, and a thickness, wherein
said length is between about 6 feet to about 20 feet, wherein said width is about 6
feet to about 12 feet, and wherein said thickness is about 6 inches to about 24
inches; and wherein said slab is comprised of reinforced concrete or cement and
wherein said concrete or cement is reinforced by means selected from the group
consisting essentially of wire, rebar, rods, or a combination thereof;

pursuant to the leasing agreement;

- (i) moving said slab to its desired location;
- (ii) placing the lower surface of the slab on substrate;

(iii) performing at least one of: leveling the slab and/or checking the level of the slab; and

(iv) placing a bulk storage tank cryogenic delivery equipment upon the top surface of the slab, the cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a bulk storage tank having filling connections for filling the bulk storage tank; connecting the filling connections of the bulk storage tank to a tanker truck filled with a cryogen; filling the bulk storage tank with the cryogen from the tanker truck; and disconnecting the filling connections from the tanker truck.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 39, further comprising the ~~step of~~-casting a means for attachment into said concrete ~~or cement~~, wherein said means is accessible from the top or side surface of said slab, and wherein said means is used to move said slab.

Claim 41 (previously presented) The method of Claim 40, wherein said means for attachment is selected from the group consisting essentially of at least one lift pin, at least one lift ring, at least one lift bolt, at least anchor bolt, and a combination thereof.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the ~~step of~~-anchoring at least a part of the bulk storage tank to the slab.

Claim 43 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the ~~steps of~~:

casting apertures into said concrete ~~or cement~~;
installing fence posts into said apertures after the slab is placed upon said ground;
attaching fencing to said fence posts; and
installing fencing around the perimeter of the slab and/or the tank.

Claim 44 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 40, further comprising the step-using at least a portion of the slab as a splash pad.

Claim 45 (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the width of said slab is about 10 feet.

Claim 46 (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the length of said slab is about 12 feet.

Claim 47 (previously presented) The method of Claim 39, wherein the slab is between about 6 inches and 16 inches in thickness.

Claim 48 (Canceled)

Claim 49 (Canceled)

Claim 50 (Currently Amended) A method for providing a foundation for industrial cryogenic delivery equipment, comprising:

pursuant to a leasing agreement in which a customer agrees to lease a portable precast slab from a supplier for a period of time:

lifting ~~[[a]]~~ the portable precast slab from a delivery vehicle, wherein the slab is comprised of concrete;

moving the lifted slab from the delivery vehicle to a site;

placing a lower surface of the slab onto the site;

placing industrial-first cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab, the first cryogenic delivery equipment comprising a bulk storage tank having filling connections for filling the bulk storage tank; and

fluidly coupling the industrial-first cryogenic delivery equipment to a facility located remotely from the slab; and

pursuant to a supply agreement in which the supplier agrees to provide the customer with a cryogen:

connecting the filling connections of the bulk storage tank to a tanker truck filled with a cryogen;

filling the bulk storage tank with the cryogen from the tanker truck; and

disconnecting the filling connections from the tanker truck.

Claim 51 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 50, wherein placing industrial first cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab ~~further~~ comprises placing a cryogenic liquid storage tank and a vaporizer on the top surface of the slab, the liquid bulk storage tank being fluidly coupled to the vaporizer.

Claim 52 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 50, wherein placing industrial first cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab comprises mechanically securing the ~~industrial first cryogenic delivery~~ equipment to the top surface.

Claim 53 (Canceled)

Claim 54 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising, prior to lifting the slab from the delivery vehicle:

placing the slab onto the delivery vehicle; and
transporting the slab to the site.

Claim 55 (previously presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the slab is placed on the delivery vehicle in response to a customer order, and wherein the slab preexists the customer order.

Claim 56 (Canceled)

Claim 57 (Canceled)

Claim 58 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the support surface is part of a permanent structure housing the facility.

Claim 60 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein lifting the slab is done using a crane.

Claim 61 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, wherein the slab comprises lift members and wherein lifting the slab comprises coupling a lifting apparatus to the lift members.

Claim 62 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising securing the slab against lateral movement with retaining members on the site.

Claim 63 (previously presented) The method of Claim 50, further comprising:
lifting the slab from the site;
placing the slab on a retrieval vehicle; and
transporting the slab on the retrieval vehicle.

Claim 64 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63, wherein transporting the slab comprises:

transporting the slab to another site;
moving the lifted slab from the retrieval vehicle to the other site;
placing the lower surface of the slab onto the other site;
placing industrial second cryogenic delivery equipment on the top surface of the slab; and
fluidly coupling the industrial second cryogenic delivery equipment to another facility located remotely from the slab.

Claim 65 (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 63, further comprising, prior to lifting the slab from the site:

removing the industrial ~~second~~ cryogenic delivery equipment from the slab.

Please add the following new claims:

Claim 66 (New) The method of claim 23, further comprising fluidly coupling the bulk storage tank to a facility adjacent the slab and configured to consume the cryogen supplied by the bulk storage tank.

Claim 67 (New) The method of claim 23, wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.

Claim 68 (New) The method of claim 33, wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.

Claim 69 (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising using the top surface of the slab to catch at least a portion of the liquid cryogens that splash from the filling of said bulk storage tank with said cryogens.

Claim 70 (New) The method of claim 39, wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.

Claim 71 (New) The method of claim 50, wherein walls at least partially enclosing the cryogenic delivery equipment are not disposed on the top surface.